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## HIGHLIGHTS

**POTATO STOCKS ON  
FEBRUARY 1, 2006 TOTALED  
106,000 CWT**

**JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION  
DOWN FROM THE SAME  
PERIOD LAST YEAR**

## UP COMING EVENTS

### 2006 DELTA FARM FORUM

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
For more information  
Call Phil Kaspari  
Cooperative Extension Service  
907-895-4215

### POTATO & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Mat Su College  
For more information  
Call Peter Bierman 907-745-3639

**Internet Access** to ALASKA reports  
at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak>

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**SUZAN BENZ**  
Agricultural Statistician  
Phone: 1-800-478-6079  
(907) 745-4272

# ALASKA FARM REPORTER

**Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension Service  
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station**

February 23, 2006

## ALASKA MILK PRODUCTION

January milk production of 0.8 million pounds was unchanged from December 2005's 0.8 million pounds. Production was down 0.4 million pounds from January 2005. Milk cows, at 800 head, were down 400 head from a year ago. Production per cow at 980 pounds was down 50 pounds from December and 30 pounds from January 2005.

Preliminary estimate of 2005 **MILK PRODUCTION** totaled 13.5 million pounds, down 1.1 million pounds from the previous year's production of 14.6 million pounds. Milk per cow averaged 12,370 pounds, up from 12,270 pounds in 2004.

Alaska Milk Production		
	2004	2005
	Million Pounds	
Tanana Valley	2.40	2.90
Matanuska Valley	12.20	10.60
State Total	14.60	13.50



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Alaska Field Office  
P.O. Box 799  
Palmer, AK 99645

## ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Potato stocks in storage in **ALASKA** as of February 1, 2006 totaled 106,000 cwt. Stocks on hand accounted for 64 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 114,000 cwt on hand a year ago, or 64 percent on hand during the same period last year. The five-year average stocks on hand for January 1 totaled 100,800 cwt.

Disappearance since January 1, 2006 totaled 12,000 cwt compared with the 5 year average of almost 16,000 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to January 1 totaled 60,000 cwt compared with a disappearance of 63,000 cwt a year earlier. The five year average is just over 70,800 cwt.

Disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance.

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY

**CATTLE:** All cattle and calves on January 1, 2006 totaled 15,500 head, up 1,000 head from last year. This includes 6,100 head of beef cows that have calved and 800 dairy cows that have calved, 1,800 heifers over 500 pounds, 3,500 bulls and steers over 500 pounds and 3,300 calves.

**BEEF COWS**, at 6,100 head were up 700 head from a year ago. Beef-type replacement heifers over 500 pounds totaled 1,300 head, up 100 head from last year.

There were 800 **MILK COWS** that have calved, down 400 from a year ago. There were 300 head of dairy replacement heifers on hand January 1, 2006, down 200 head from a year ago.

An estimated 3,300 **CALVES** were born in 2005, up 400 head from the previous year.

On December 1, 2005 **HOGS & PIGS** totaled 1,600 head, down 100 head from a year ago. Breeding hogs totaled 300 head while market hogs were estimated at 1,300 head. Last year there were 300 head of breeding hogs and 1,400 head of market hogs.

LIVESTOCK INVENTORY											
As of January 1	Tanana Valley		Matanuska Valley		Kenai Peninsula		Southwest/ Southeast		State Total		
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	
	All Cattle & Calves	1,500	1,430	1,930	2,460	660	420	11,410	10,190	15,500	14,500
	Beef Cows/Calved	520	450	440	380	280	200	4,860	4,370	6,100	5,400
	Milk Cows /Calved	250	240	520	940	20	10	10	10	800	1,200
	Heifers (500+ lbs)	290	310	350	580	120	70	1,040	940	1,800	1,900
	Bulls/Steers (>500 lbs)	260	310	150	170	90	60	3,000	2,560	3,500	3,100
	Calves (<500 lbs)	180	120	470	390	150	80	2,500	2,310	3,300	2,900
As of December 1	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	
	All Hogs & Pigs	1,080	810	480	870	40	20	1/	1/	1,600	1,700

1/ Included in Kenai Peninsula

2005 CROP SUMMARY

Growers harvested 4,300 acres of **BARLEY** for grain in 2005, up 100 acres from a year ago. Production was 208,000 bushels with a yield of 48.4 bushels per acre. Production value at \$759,000 compares with \$500,000 in 2004.

**OATS** for grain was harvested from 900 acres in 2005, down 400 acres from 2004. A yield of 64.4 bushels per acre was realized with production of 58,000 bushels. This compares with 41,000 bushels produced in 2004. Production value, at \$148,000 compares with \$100,000 a year earlier.

**HAY** farmers harvested 21,000 acres in 2005 with a production of 30,000 tons. A year ago, 21,000 acres were also harvested with a production of 28,000 tons. Grass hay made up 20,400 acres and grain hay, mostly oat hay, accounted for the remaining 600 acres. The all hay yield of 1.43 tons per acre compares with 1.33 tons per acre in 2004. The value of production at \$7,200,000 compares with \$6,440,000 from a year ago.

**POTATO** growers harvested 780 acres in 2005, down 30 acres from a year ago. Production totaled 166,000 cwt, down 11,000 cwt from last year's crop. The preliminary production value was \$3,403,000 compared with last year's value of \$3,469,000.

CROPS											
	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production		Value (000) Dollars		
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	
	BARLEY (BU)										
	Tanana Valley	4,300	4,300	4,100	4,100*	49.0	35.0	201,000	143,500	727	493
Matanuska Valley	300	300	200	100*	35.0	15.0	7,000	1,500	32	7	
State Total	4,600	4,600	4,300	4,200*	48.4	34.5	208,000	145,000	759	500	
State Total	OATS (BU)										
	2,100	2,200	900	1,300*	64.4	31.5	58,000	41,000	148	100	
Tanana Valley	ALL HAY (TONS)										
	---	---	9,800	9,400	1.35	1.40	13,200	13,200	2,995	2,798	
	Matanuska Valley	---	---	8,700	9,100	1.53	1.33	13,300	12,100	3,345	2,969
	All Other Areas	---	---	2,500	2,500	1.40	1.08	3,500	2,700	860	673
	State Total	---	---	21,000	21,000	1.43	1.33	30,000	28,000	7,200	6,440
Tanana Valley	POTATOES (CWT)										
	310	310	300	280	123	184	37,000	51,500	823	1,004	
	Matanuska Valley	510	550	470	520	273	240	128,500	125,000	2,555	2,450
	All Other Areas	10	10	10	10	50	50	500	500	25	15
	State Total	830	870	780	810	213	219	166,000	177,000	3,403	3,469

\* Harvested for grain